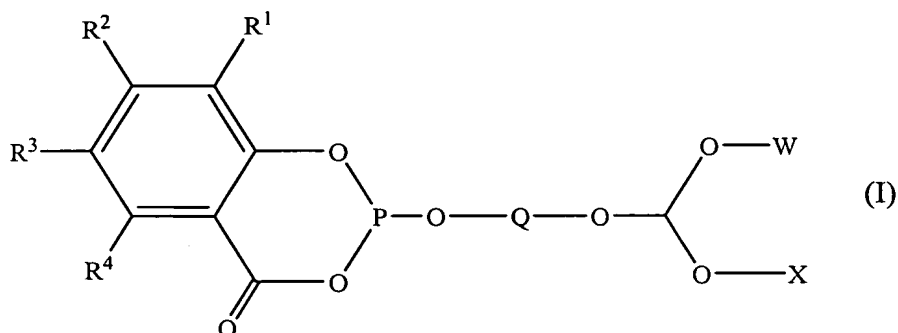


IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A process for preparing bisphosphites of the formula I



where wherein R^1, R^2, R^3, R^4 are ~~each H or an~~ independently selected from H, aliphatic, alicyclic, aliphatic-alicyclic, heterocyclic, aliphatic-heterocyclic, aromatic, aromatic-aromatic, aliphatic-aromatic hydrocarbon radical having from 1 to 50 carbon atoms, F, Cl, Br, I, $-CF_3$, $-OR^7$, $-COR^7$, $-CO_2R^7$, $-CO_2M$, $-SR^7$, $-SO_2R^7$, $-SOR^7$, $-SO_3R^7$, $-SO_3M$, $-SO_2NR^7R^8$, NR^7R^8 , $N=CR^7R^8$, or NH_2 , ~~where wherein~~ R^1 to R^4 ~~are identical or different and~~ may be covalently linked to one another,

R^7, R^8 are ~~each~~ independently selected from H or a substituted or unsubstituted, aliphatic or aromatic hydrocarbon radical having from 1 to 25 carbon atoms, ~~atoms and are identical or different,~~

M is an alkali metal ion, alkaline earth metal ion, ammonium ion, or phosphonium ion,

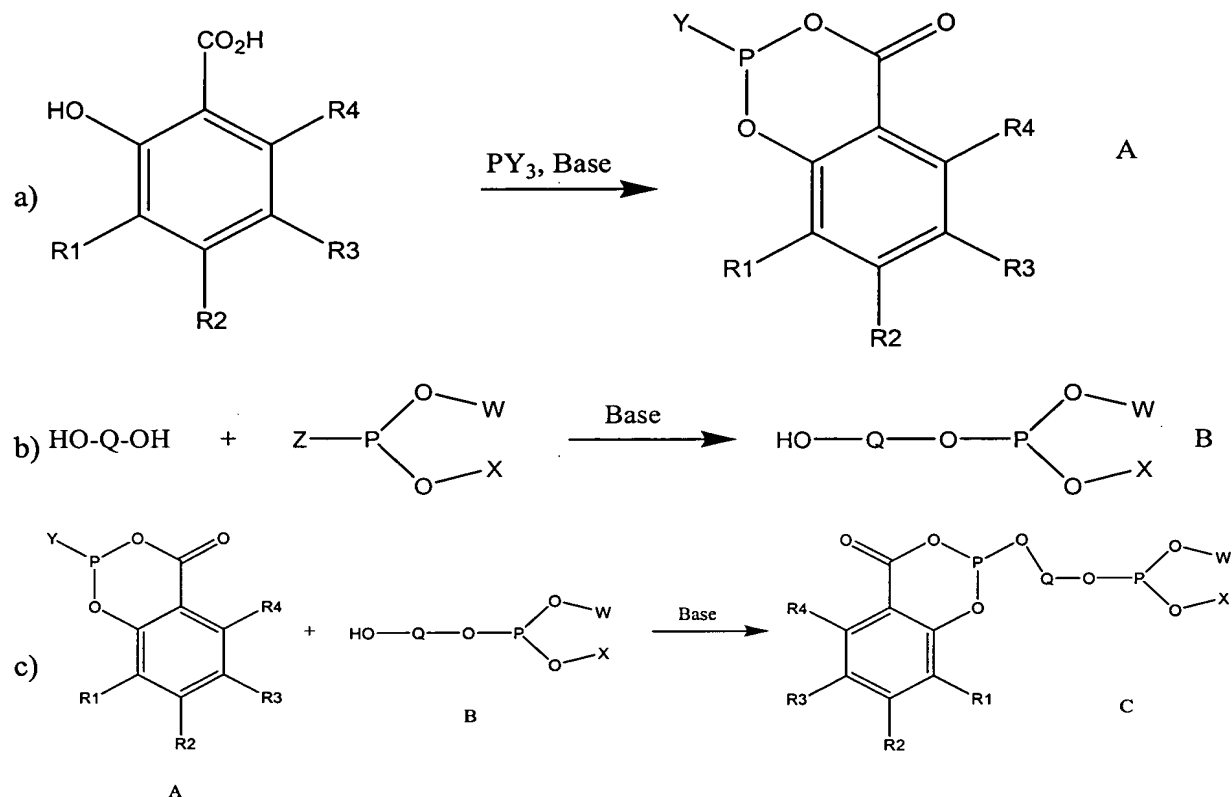
Q is a divalent aliphatic, alicyclic, aliphatic-alicyclic, heterocyclic, aliphatic-heterocyclic, aromatic, or aliphatic-aromatic hydrocarbon radical having from 1 to 50 carbon atoms,

Z, Y are each Cl, Br, or I,

W, X are ~~each~~ independently selected from an aliphatic, alicyclic, aliphatic-alicyclic, ~~heterocyclic~~ heterocyclic, aliphatic-heterocyclic, aromatic, aromatic-aromatic, or aliphatic-

aromatic hydrocarbon radical having from 1 to 50 carbon atoms and may be identical or different or be covalently linked to one another, which comprises

the process comprising carrying out the reaction sequence



wherein the reaction steps a), b) and c) are carried out in aprotic and nonpolar solvents,

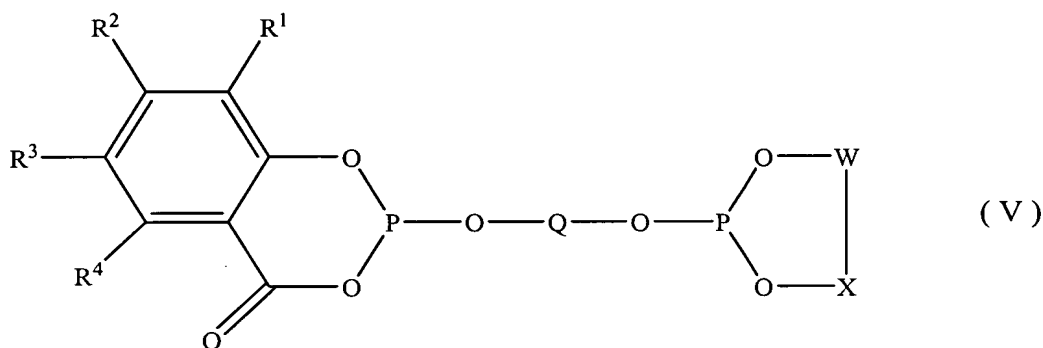
the adduct base • HY or base • HZ is filtered off after at least one of the reaction steps a), b) and c) and

first the end product is isolated and purified.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein said base comprises tertiary amines. ~~amines are used as base.~~

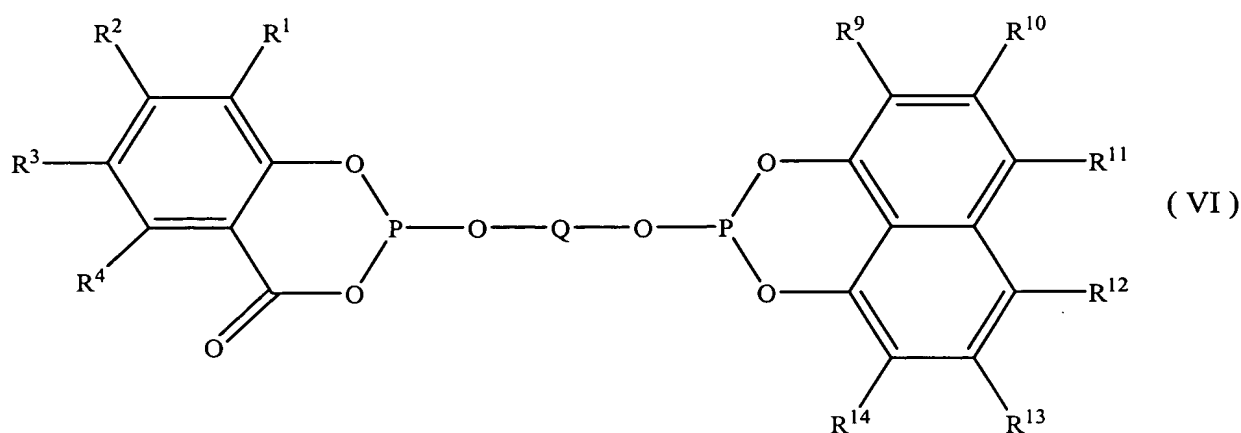
Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in claim 1, ~~or 2~~, wherein said aprotic and nonpolar solvents are at least one selected from the group consisting of benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, and cyclohexane. ~~cyclohexane are used as aprotic and nonpolar solvent.~~

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, wherein W and X are ~~each an~~ independently selected from aliphatic, alicyclic, aliphatic-alicyclic, heterocyclic, aliphatic-heterocyclic, aromatic, aromatic-aromatic, or aliphatic-aromatic hydrocarbon radical having from 1 to 50 carbon atoms and are covalently linked as in the formula V



~~where R¹, R², R³, R⁴ and Q are as defined in claim 1 and subject to the provisos~~
therein.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, wherein W and X are each an aromatic hydrocarbon radical having from 1 to 50 carbon atoms and are covalently linked as shown in the formula VI

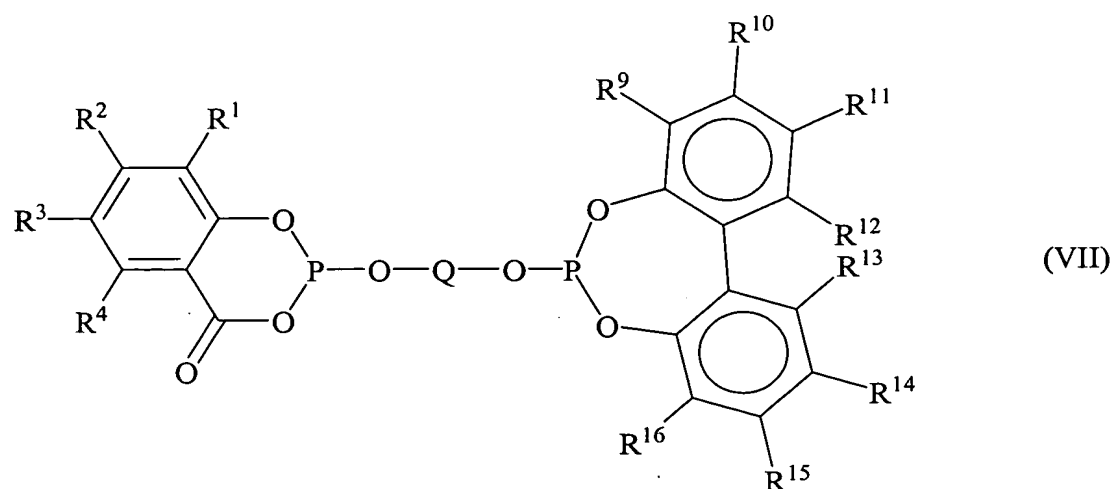


where ~~wherein~~ $R^9, R^{10}, R^{11}, R^{12}, R^{13}, R^{14}$ are each H or an independently selected from H, aliphatic, alicyclic, aliphatic-alicyclic, heterocyclic, aliphatic-heterocyclic, aromatic-aromatic, aromatic, aliphatic-aromatic hydrocarbon radical having from 1 to 50 carbon atoms, F, Cl, Br, I, $-CF_3$, $-OR^{25}$, $-COR^{25}$, $-CO_2R^{25}$, $-CO_2M$, $-SR^{25}$, $-SO_2R^{25}$, $-SOR^{25}$, $-SO_3R^{25}$, $-SO_3M$, $-SO_2NR^{25}R^{26}$, $NR^{25}R^{26}$, $N=CR^{25}R^{26}$, or NH_2 , ~~where wherein~~ R^9 to R^{14} ~~are identical or different and~~ may be covalently linked to one another[[]];

R^{25} and R^{26} are each independently selected from H or a substituted or unsubstituted, aliphatic or aromatic hydrocarbon radical having from 1 to 25 carbon atoms, and ~~atoms and~~ ~~may be identical or different,~~

M is an alkali metal ion, alkaline earth metal ion, ammonium ion, or phosphonium ion, ~~ion and~~ R^1, R^2, R^3, R^4 and Q are as defined in claim 1 and subject to the provisos therein.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, wherein W and X are each an aromatic hydrocarbon radical having from 1 to 50 carbon atoms and are covalently linked as shown in the formula VII

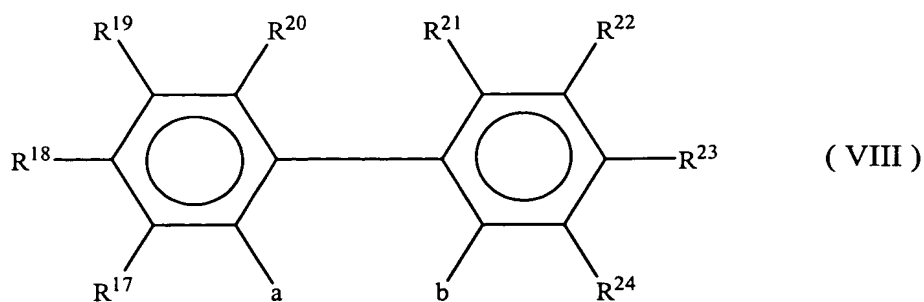


~~where~~ wherein $R^9, R^{10}, R^{11}, R^{12}, R^{13}, R^{14}, R^{15}, R^{16}$ are each ~~H or an~~ independently selected from H, aliphatic, alicyclic, aliphatic-alicyclic, heterocyclic, aliphatic-heterocyclic, aromatic-aromatic, aromatic, aliphatic-aromatic hydrocarbon radical having from 1 to 50 carbon atoms, F, Cl, Br, I, $-\text{CF}_3$, $-\text{OR}^{25}$, $-\text{COR}^{25}$, $-\text{CO}_2\text{R}^{25}$, $-\text{CO}_2\text{M}$, $-\text{SR}^{25}$, $-\text{SO}_2\text{R}^{25}$, $-\text{SOR}^{25}$, $-\text{SO}_3\text{R}^{25}$, $-\text{SO}_3\text{M}$, $-\text{SO}_2\text{NR}^{25}\text{R}^{26}$, $\text{NR}^{25}\text{R}^{26}$, $\text{N}=\text{CR}^{25}\text{R}^{26}$, or NH_2 , ~~where~~ wherein R^9 to R^{16} are ~~identical or different and~~ may be covalently linked to one another,

R^{25} and R^{26} are each independently selected from H or a substituted or unsubstituted, aliphatic or aromatic hydrocarbon radical having from 1 to 25 carbon atoms, and ~~atoms and~~ may be identical or different,

M is an alkali metal ion, alkaline earth metal ion, ammonium ion, or phosphonium ion, ~~ion and~~ R^1, R^2, R^3, R^4 and Q are as defined in claim 1 and subject to the provisos therein.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 6~~ claim 1, wherein Q is a hydrocarbon radical of the formula VIII



where ~~wherein~~ R^{17} , R^{18} , R^{19} , R^{20} , R^{21} , R^{22} , R^{23} , R^{24} are each ~~H or an~~ independently selected from H, aliphatic, alicyclic, aliphatic-alicyclic, heterocyclic, aliphatic-heterocyclic, aromatic-aromatic, aromatic, aliphatic-aromatic hydrocarbon radical having from 1 to 50 carbon atoms, F, Cl, Br, I, $-\text{CF}_3$, $-\text{OR}^{25}$, $-\text{COR}^{25}$, $-\text{CO}_2\text{R}^{25}$, $-\text{CO}_2\text{M}$, $-\text{SR}^{25}$, $-\text{SO}_2\text{R}^{25}$, $-\text{SOR}^{25}$, $-\text{SO}_3\text{R}^{25}$, $-\text{SO}_3\text{M}$, $-\text{SO}_2\text{NR}^{25}\text{R}^{26}$, $\text{NR}^{25}\text{R}^{26}$, $\text{N}=\text{CR}^{25}\text{R}^{26}$, or NH_2 , ~~where wherein~~ R^{17} to R^{24} are ~~identical or different and~~ may be covalently linked to one another,

R^{25} and R^{26} are each independently selected from H or a substituted or unsubstituted, aliphatic or aromatic hydrocarbon radical having from 1 to 25 carbon atoms, and

M is an alkali metal ion, alkaline earth metal ion, ammonium ion, or phosphonium ion with the positions a and b serving as linkage points.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 7~~ claim 1, wherein X and W are covalently linked and the corresponding starting material B used in reaction step c) is prepared according to reaction step d) in an aprotic and nonpolar solvent

